

Appendix 5: Vocabulary Used in a Writing Classroom

Term	"Un-dictionary" Definition
Analyzing	Interpreting phenomenon that is difficult to explain
Audience	For whom am I writing this piece?
Context	The circumstances or events that exist around the writing
Craft	Those things good writers do
Development	The "stuff" of the paper
Discourse	The "type" of writing and the language used (rhetoric) specific to that task (e.g., persuasion, literary analysis)
Editing	Fixing mistakes writers make
Evaluating	Focusing on the worth of a person, object, idea, or other phenomenon
Expressive	Reflecting on your own life and experiences, often looking backward in order to look forward
Genre	The form of the piece (e.g., poem, essay, letter)
Heuristic	Type of strategy that encourages learners to discover solutions for themselves
Inform	Presenting information in a surprising way
Inquiring	Wrestling with a question or problem
Invention	A synonym for "prewriting"
Proposing solutions	Describing a problem and possible course of action
Purpose	The reason why we write a piece
Recursive	Moving both backward and forward. Nonlinear. The writing process is recursive and differs from writer to writer. In fact, there is no single writing process.
Revision	Literally, "re-seeing" the paper. In revision we take steps to improve our papers. The chief goal of revision: moving your paper to a better place.
STAR	The four steps of revision: substituting, taking stuff out, adding stuff, rearranging
Scope	The level of attempt the writer made in creating the piece
Seeking common ground	Writing to bring people together; respecting the values of all readers
Sequence	The order of information or topics in the writing
Share and respond	The process of reading each other's papers with the intention of helping to improve the drafts. Different heuristics may be used to achieve this (e.g., highlighting golden lines, question flood).
Subject	The main topic of the piece
Taking a stand	Persuading the audience to accept a particular position on a controversial issue
Thesis	The big idea being put forth in the piece; a proposition advanced by the writer
Tone	The writer's attitude toward the topic in the writing
Unity	The cohesiveness of an essay
Voice	Evidence of the author's personality on the written page
Writing process	The steps writers move through: invention/draft/sharing and responding/revising/editing/publishing
Writing small	Narrowing a topic to find power through small detail